

P-8: Asian/Pacific Islanders and Tobacco in Washington

Venue: Statewide

Goal: Reducing Health Disparities

Sponsoring Organizations: Various

Abstract: Asian/Pacific Islanders (A/PI) make up nearly 6% of the Washington population, and are primarily located in the South Puget Sound region. Current smoking among Asian/Pacific Islanders is approximately 15.8% (19.6% for males and 12.6% for females) for 1998-2000 combined. This is in comparison to the state rate of 20.7% for 2000 (21.7% for males and 19.7% for females). Youth smoking among A/PI is lower than the state average for all grade groups. Maternal smoking during pregnancy is also lower than the state average, and has been consistent for the past several years. A/PI communities are comprised of a number of diverse ethnic sub-populations, so tobacco control efforts must consider the specific needs and cultures of these communities rather than attempting to address “A/PI” as a general population.

Recommendations: DOH should follow recommendations made by the Cross-Cultural Workgroup on Tobacco, as part of a Strategic Plan for Reducing Disparities. Continued engagement of Asian/Pacific Islander community leaders will improve tobacco control capacity and culturally competent program delivery among Asian/Pacific Islander communities in Washington.

Contact for more information:

David Harrelson

Washington State Department of Health, Tobacco Prevention & Control Program
(360) 236-3685

David.Harrelson@doh.wa.gov